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Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric,

Here is another bit for your Confidential File. I would not want to embarrass my (usually reliable) source, so it should not be published in the form it was told to me. You can draw your own conclusions after studying the listing in the Brunk book on counterstamped coins.

Sometime between 1957 and 1962 John Ford undertook to make a fantasy coin that would seem to be something that could have been made for the Republic of Texas. He told people that it was F.C.C. Boyd who suggested it, and that he (Boyd) wanted it to play a joke on someone with such a piece. I think the name was John Morrel, or something like that.

Ford supposedly asked Walter Breen to create a design that would be logical for such a coin. Sketches were prepared and Paul Franklin took them to Milan, Italy where dies were made and pieces were probably struck. The mint in Italy may have been the place where the Libertas Americana medal copy pieces were made earlier.

Before the Republic of Texas pieces were made, a supply of gold eight escudos of Colombia were purchased through an ad placed by New Netherlands Coin Company. I have not seen or located that ad yet. Perhaps you can. It would be especially interesting to see if the ad sought both Colombia and Peru doubloons. My source thought they asked for Potosi, but the known Texas pieces are struck over Colombia coins.

The reason I am curious about the Peruvian coins is lot #57 in the Clifford auction...a Kohler counterstamp on doubloon that came from NN in 1961. Read carefully the statement by John Ford about this piece.

As Alice would say, this gets curiouser and curiouser!

- A. Half Cents (3): 1808 (1), 1825 (1), 1826 (1).
Values: VG \$30.00 VF \$45.00
- B. Large Cents (57): 1793 (1), 1794 (1), 1799 (1), 1800 (1), 1802 (1), 1803 (3), 1808 (2), 1811 (1), 1813 (3), 1816 (1), 1817 (2), 1818 (4), 1819 (1), 1820 (4), 1821 (1), 1822 (3), 1825 (1), 1827 (2), 1828 (3), 1829 (1), 1831 (3), 1833 (3), 1836 (3), 1837 (3), 1838 (1), UK (7).
Values: VG \$30.00 VF \$45.00
- M. One Reales (1): 1795 (1).
Values: VG \$50.00 VF \$75.00



11520/33770. This mark is also found in with B. RAPP.

- B. Large Cents (1): 1798 (1).
Values: VG \$60.00 VF \$90.00

11780. H. REES / PHILA



- B. Large Cents (2): 1818 (1), UK (1).
Values: VG \$60.00 VF \$90.00

REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

These pieces were discovered in the early 1960's, and they appear to be struck from coin dies. Their origin is uncertain. Some think that they are recent fantasies.

11940. REPUBLIC OF TEXAS / (Star Surrounded by Wreath) / . 1839.
Rev: HOUSTON TREAS. DEPT. / (Liberty Cap) / 16 D. B. E. 21 C



SAMUEL N. RICE

New York City, New York

Samuel N. Rice was a daguerrotype photographer, whose business was at 194 Canal Street according to the 1850 and 1854 New York City Directories.

34040. RICE / 194 CANAL ST.

- B. Large Cents (1): UK (1).
Values: VG \$120.00 VF \$180.00
- V. Half Reales (1): UK (1).
Values: VG \$120.00 VF \$180.00

J. H. RICE

34070. J. H. RICE



- B. Large Cents (2): 1838 (1), 1851 (1).
Values: VG \$10.00 VF \$15.00

WILLIAM J. RICE

34115. WM. J. RICE

- B. Large Cents (2): 1817 (1), 1827 (1).
Values: VG \$10.00 VF \$15.00
- J. Quarters (1): 1853 (1).
Values: VG \$12.50 VF \$20.00

J. RICH

34120. J. RICH

- B. Large Cents (1): 1818 (1).
Values: VG \$10.00 VF \$15.00
- J. Quarters (1): 1855 (1).
Values: VG \$12.50 VF \$20.00

CHARLES H. RICHARDSON

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

34170. RICHARDSON



reduced size

23285. S. KNIGHT
See Part II
23290. W.M. KNIGHT
1865 Two Cent Piece
23295. KNIGHTON
Large Cent
23300. WM KNOTT
Large Cent
23305. W.O. KNOW
1866 Nickel
23310. KNOWLES.
1789 Two Reales - See Part III
23320. STENCILS, STEEL STAMPS, KEY CHECKS
(around) MADE BY / A.P. / KNOWLES, /
ASHLAND, MASS. / 1873.
23330. F.S. KNOWLTON
See Part II
23335. EDWARD KNOX / N.Y.
1847 Large Cent
23338. J.B. KNOW
Large Cent
23340. R. KNOX
Large Cent (H)
23350. T. KNOX / AUBURN, N.Y.
See Part II
23360. W. KNOX
See Part II
23370. W.J. KNOX
1868 Three Cent Nickel
23380. H. KNUPP
1833 Large Cent
23390. KOCH
1877 Quarter
23400. J.G. KOE
1865 Small Cent
23410. F.D. KOHLER & CO / * 1849 * / SAN
FRANCISCO
1840-Cuzco Peruvian Eight Escudos



23420. J. KOLB
1864 Small Cent
23430. KOOS
1844 Half Dime
23440. KOSSUTH EXCHANGE / J / THOMAS / K /
.PHILADA.
See Part II
23445. KOX
Large Cent
23450. J. KÖY / & SON
1838 Large Cent
23460. S.C. KRAM
1863 Small Cent
23470. W. KRAFF
Large Cent (H)
23480. A.D. KRAUS
1848 Large Cent
23490. C.E. KRAUSE. / FLA. / SARASOTA.
1891 Small Cent
23500. A KRAUSS
1864 Small Cent



23505. J. KREHBIEL / LOCKPORT, N.Y.
1864 Small Cent
23515. J.R. KRON
1848 Large Cent
23510. E. KRETSCHEMAR
1844 Large Cent
23520. KRUPP GUN / 4 - 12 - 93
Indian Head Cent
23530. THE MAGIC CAULDRON / BILL KUETHE
See Part II
23535. J. KUGLER
1835 Large Cent
23540. KUNKEL'S / OPERA / TROUPE
See Part II
23545. KUNKEL'S / OPERA TROUPE
See Part II
23550. L. KUNKLE.
1852 Large Cent
23555. L. KUNZ
1849 Large Cent
23560. KY. (And Various Numbers)
See Stone Mountain Series
23570. J. KYLE
Large Cent (H)
23575. W. KYLE
1854 Canadian Bank Penny
- L -
23580. L
See Part II
23585. L.B. & CO. / CAST STEEL / WARRANTED
Canadian Token Br-922
23590. L.D. JR.
1841 Hard Times Token
23595. ISLIP / L.I.R.R. / ... SEAL & PRESS
Shield Nickel - See Part III
23600. L.I.R.R. / SCALE PRESS
1882 Nickel - See Part III
23605. L&K
1864 Two Cent Piece
23610. L.P. - LACA
Canadian Victoria Large Cent
23615. THE L. & S. CO. / CLEVELAND, O. /
Shield Nickel
23620. L.S.S. CO. / LIMITED
1901 Small Cent
23625. L&T
1827 Large Cent
23627. L.V
See Part II
23630. LA. (and Various Numbers)
See Stone Mountain Series
23633. LA. G.L. (and Various Numbers)
See Stone Mountain Series
23635. LA. S.L. (and Various Numbers)
See Stone Mountain Series
23640. E.N. LACEY
1851 Large Cent
23645. W.S. LACEY
See Part II
23650. JOCK / HANDMADE / LACKLAND
1912 Canadian Large Cent
23655. LACONIA N.H.
1843 Large Cent
23660. LADD & TILTON. / 1871
1849 Oregon Exchange Company
Dollar Gold Piece
23670. E.W. LADD
1800 Half Cent (SO)
23680. O. LAGACE
Canadian Token Br-521C
23685. M- LAIN-
1838 Large Cent



actual size
2



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|------|--|--------|
| 300. | 8 Escudos, 1822-37 Head of Liberty.
Reverse, Fasces within double cornucopia. | 200.00 |
| 301. | 4 Escudos, 1826 Similar. | 500.00 |
| 302. | 2 Escudos, 1822-37 Similar. | 27.50 |
| 303. | 1 Escudo, 1822-37 Similar. | 15.00 |
| 304. | 1 Peso, 1825-36 Similar. | 15.00 |



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|------|--|--------|
| 305. | 16 Pesos, 1837-49 "REPUBLICA DE LA NUEVA GRANADA".
Reverse, Arms and "BOGOTÁ" or "POPAYÁN". | 200.00 |
| 306. | 2 Pesos, 1837-46 Similar. | 40.00 |
| 307. | 1 Peso, 1837-49 Similar. | 15.00 |



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|------|---|--------|
| 308. | 16 Pesos, 1849-53 Plain Liberty head.
Reverse, Eagle on draped shield. | 325.00 |
| 309. | 10 Pesos, 1853-56 Similar. | 200.00 |
| 310. | 2 Pesos, 1849-51 Similar. | 100.00 |

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State Assay Office was discontinued. After that time Frederick Kohler again conducted his own private assay business.

Kohler is mainly known today for rectangular ingots issued while he was state assayer.

The story of Kohler's enterprises is an extensive one, and the reader is referred to pages 350-361 of *The History of United States Coinage as Illustrated by the Garrett Collection*, and pages 93-99 of *Private Gold Coins and Patterns of the United States* for much additional information.

Kohler Counterstamp on Doubloon



(See Color Photo)

- 57 Counterstamp of F.D. Kohler & Co., 1849, on Peruvian Gold Doubloon. The undertype coin is extremely fine; the counterstamp is uncirculated. Listed and illustrated as Kagin No. 1, page 381.

The counterstamp is from a prepared punch which reads in three lines F.D. KOHLER & Co./1849/SAN FRANCISCO. The host coin is a regular-issue 8 escudos piece minted in Peru in 1840.

The cataloger has been unable to locate any references to this issue. Was the coin counterstamped in 1849 to test one of Kohler's punches, or was the piece counterstamped in later years? The answers are not known, and no warranty or representation is made in this regard. John Ford assures us that the die punch is authentic and contemporary, having been made by Albert Kuner. However, he has reservations about when the doubloon was actually stamped. (\$2000-3000)

Obtained from New Netherlands Coin Co., 1961.

Massachusetts & California Co.

The operations of the Massachusetts & California Co., another early coiner associated with California, are largely an enigma. Several \$5 issues are known, but they are alloyed extensively with copper, unlike pieces made from native California gold which contains a high silver content. It is quite possible that such pieces were issued in the East, probably as patterns, in the manner of the known impressions from the same dies in copper and in silver.

The firm, formed in Massachusetts, may have transacted business in California, for Adams relates that letterheads of the Massachusetts & California Co. were discovered in California and that Frederick P. Tracy, who later became a prominent California attorney, served as the group's secretary.

Much of the information known today about Massachusetts & California Co. is derived from newspaper articles. On January 23 it was reported in the Northampton (Mass.) Rev. F. P. Tracy is the agent of a company who have raised \$6,000, and are soon to issue a significant was an item from an unnamed local newspaper, probably published in Massachusetts, which was reprinted in the *American Journal of Numismatics* in 1898:

The Massachusetts & California Co., formed in Northampton, which originally contemplated a capital of only \$6,000, has increased it to \$50,000. Only a quarter of the amount, however, is to be paid at the outset. Josiah Hayden of Haydensville is President of the company, and S. S. Wells of Haydensville, Miles G. Moore and Directors. Rev. F. P. Tracy goes out to California as its agent. It is the intention of the Company to establish a private mint in California, and with the approbation of the Government, to issue the same denominations as the coins of the United States, of equal, if not a little higher, value. Mr. William H. Hayden, an assayer, having qualified himself for the purpose by a series of lectures under Prof. Silliman, and by all the information that could be obtained at the United States Mint. Mr. Hayden is a graduate of Yale College, and a son of the President of the Company. The Company will coin about \$10,000 a day. It is the intention of the Company to purchase gold-dust, at the current prices, and transform it into coin for circulation. Should the Government establish a Mint there, the coins would be worth its denominational value, or more, at the Mint, and those who accompany him will go by one of the largest steamships.

The following offering is one of the most complete collections ever formed of Massachusetts and California patterns and trial pieces. For descriptions of the various pieces, refer to pages 342-344 of Donald Kagin's *Private Gold Coins and Patterns of the United States*. In addition, pages 71-76 of the same reference contain much historical information.



- 58 Massachusetts & California Co. \$5 in silver, gilt. About 30 pieces are known. As certain features of the design seem to be light, the gilding, the cataloger presumes that the piece was gilded in modern times. 86.5 grains. Kagin 1-A. Obverse with a shield on which is a mounted horseman holding up a shield on which is a mounted horseman. The word ALTA appears below, probably for Alta California ("Upper California"). At the top is an arm with the hand holding a horizontal arrow. Stars surround. The reverse consists of a star and the inscription 'MASSACHUSETTS & CALIFORNIA CO. 1849', with the date at the bottom. The left stem tip ending directly over the 1 of 1849, with the date within and an inscription and date on the outside. The edge is reeded.

Probably about a half dozen specimens exist.

Obtained from a Lester Merkin Auction, September, 1967.



- 59 Massachusetts & California Co. \$5 in copper. Extremely fine. 59.5 grains. Kagin 1-B, same dies as preceding. The coin is in Kagin. About half dozen specimens exist.

From A. J. Oshesmer, 1968.

